

CLAIMS

1. An implant, in particular an intervertebral implant, comprising:
 - (A) two articulating parts (4; 5) each having a central axis (1; 26), each having a slide surface (6; 7) intersecting the central axes (1; 26) and each having an outermost end (14; 15) which can be connected to a bone, where
 - (B) the slide surfaces (6; 7) are curved, characterized in that
 - (C) the slide surfaces are mutually displaceable, and
 - (D) the second slide surface (5) is rotatable relative to the first articulating part (4) about skewed axes of rotation (10; 11)
2. Implant as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6; 7) are saddle-shaped.
3. Implant as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) cross each other at an angle between 80 and 100°.
4. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) are a minimum distance A apart that is between 0.1 and 20 mm.
5. Implant as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the distance A is between 2 and 20 mm.

6. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6; 7) each comprise a saddle-point (8; 9) where, when the second articulating part (5) is rotated about each of the axes of rotation (10; 11), the second saddle point (9) moves along an arc of circle (12; 14) concentric with the particular axis of rotation (10; 11).

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7. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6; 7) are congruent in the initial position at coaxial central axes (1; 26) of the articulating parts (4; 5).

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8. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the outermost ends (14; 15) of the articulating parts (4; 5) each are fitted with a connection element (2; 3).

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9. Implant as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the connection elements (2; 3) are designed as cover plates (12; 13) each having an axially outermost surface (16; 17) configured transversely to the central axes (1; 26).

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10. Implant as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that one of the cover plates (12; 13) is integral with the adjoining articulating part (5).

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11. Implant as claimed in one of claims 9 or 10, characterized in that one of the cover plates (12) comprises a guide (20) perpendicular to the central axis (1) and in that the adjoining articulating part (4) is fitted with a rear end (14) that may be inserted into the guide (20).

12. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 11, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be rotated about its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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13. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 12, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be displaced along a displacement axis (40) perpendicular to said articulating part's central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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14. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 13, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be displaced in a plane perpendicular to its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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15. Implant as claimed in one of claims 12 through 14, characterized in that a connection element (2; 3) is fitted with a recess (37) that is coaxial with the central axis (1; 26) and that receives the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjoining articulating part (4; 5).

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16. Implant as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the recess (37) comprises an axially terminal cavity (39) and in that the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjoining articulating part (4; 5) is fitted with a widening (38) coaxial with the central axis (1; 26), said widening being insertable in the cavity (39).

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17. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 16, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of plastic.

18. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 17, characterized in that at least one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of ceramic.